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them have made a specialty of such writing. They are twelve in number, some of them still living, while others are dead, and all are Americans. Mrs. Humphrey's object in writing the book has been to give children some idea of the authors themselves as men and women rather than to criticise or describe their writings. Only a few of their more popular works are noticed at much length, the rest being merely mentioned; but many interesting anecdotes of the authors themselves are related, and all in a style that young readers will not only understand, but enjoy. Some of the authors, such as Longfellow, Bryant, Holmes, and Mrs. Stowe, are quite widely known, while others have a narrower reputation; but an author's capacity as a writer for children is not to be measured by his success in other directions. It is evident, too, that the fashion in children's books varies from age to age; for those here noticed are quite different from the Rollo books and the writings of "Peter Parley," which were in vogue forty years ago. Mrs. Humphrey's book gives portraits of all the authors mentioned, which will add greatly to its attractiveness for children; and they will perhaps wish that she had added her own to the list.

*Eating for Strength; or, Food and Diet in their Relation to Health and Work.* By M. L. HOLBROOK, M.D. New York, M. L. Holbrook & Co. 12°.

IN this volume of only 236 pages, the author has discussed a great variety of subjects. He has attempted to combine so much of physiology as concerns digestion with a practical cook-book, and has added a chapter on the alimentary products of the vegetable kingdom. This is one of the books which, so far as we can judge, supplies no want, and its *raison d'être* is inexplicable. The physiology of digestion is much better described in all the school physiologies, and the recipes for the kitchen contain nothing that is especially new or valuable. The composition of the volume is careless, singular verbs frequently being called upon to do duty for a plural subject. There are portions of the book from which teachers could select admirable examples of how sentences should *not* be constructed. We select one of these as an illustration: "After the stomach has done all it can in the way of digesting the albuminous matter in our food, it is passed through the pyloric orifice at its end into the duodenum, in an acid condition." We do not blame the stomach for being in an acid condition, if, after having done its full digestive duty, it is passed through the pyloric orifice into the duodenum. Such treatment would be apt to "sour" the most patient organ in the body; and even the stomach, which has the reputation of being "long-suffering," might justly display its displeasure if called upon to suffer this distortion but once, and much more if asked to do it three times a day throughout a natural lifetime. Other examples of careless composition might be mentioned, but they would add nothing to the one we have selected.

The author's chemistry is equally faulty with his composition. In speaking of the carbo-hydrates, he says that they are called "carbo-hydrates" because chemically composed of carbon and water, and then follows with the remarkable statement that the chemical formula of cane-sugar is, carbon, 12; hydrogen, 11; oxygen, 11; and that of grape-sugar, carbon, 12; hydrogen, 12; and oxygen, 12.

Taken as a whole, this book is one we not only cannot recommend, but which we deem it our duty to condemn.

*A Grammar of the Latin Language for the Use of Schools and Colleges.* By E. A. ANDREWS and S. STODDARD. Revised by Henry Preble. Boston, Houghton, Mifflin, & Co. 12°. \$1.12.

IN the thirty years since this grammar was last revised, opinions have changed somewhat as to what the contents of such a book should be, and how they should be presented. The reviser has consequently found himself driven further and further from the earlier form of the grammar, and has moulded his materials into a form corresponding better with the present state of Latin philology. Most of the old paradigms have been retained, and others have been added. In the case of the regular verb, the four conjugations are printed side by side, so that they are more easily seen to be really varieties of one conjugation, and their forms are more easily implanted in the memory than when learned in four isolated groups.

Many of the old examples also remain, and some new ones have been introduced.

The general sequence of topics has not been greatly altered, the most important changes being the following: The sections treating of word-formation have been gathered into one place, instead of being distributed among the different parts of speech in connection with their inflection; and the treatment of word-formation is made more effective by giving the pupil some insight into the processes of the growth of words instead of merely classifying derivatives according to their apparent endings. The treatment of adverbs (except their comparison), prepositions, and other particles, has been transferred partly to "Word-Formation," and partly to "Syntax." The rules of quantity have been brought into the early part of the book instead of being relegated to "Versification;" and, while the rules of agreement for adjectives and pronouns remain in their old place at the beginning of "Syntax," the rest of the syntax of such words has been postponed till after the treatment of the cases, in order to secure a more natural progression in the study of syntactic details. On account of the necessary introduction of new matter, no attempt has been made to retain the old numbering of the sections; and the book is divided only into sections and sub-sections, with occasional notes; the three kinds of divisions being distinguished by type of different sizes, the main sections sometimes consisting of two or three numbered paragraphs. This arrangement allows a most detailed reference without the use of long or complicated indications. In the matter of pronunciation the reviser makes no reference to what is known as the English method, for the reason, he says, that "the time seems ripe for sparing the teacher the necessity of choosing between a system accepted by the scholarly world as substantially correct, and one which, though still somewhat sheltered by a conservative tradition, makes the mastery of quantity and even of word-formation unnecessarily difficult."

The third declension is made less of a stumbling-block to young learners by grouping the consonant-stems simply according to their behavior toward the letter *s*, and by presenting the *i*-stems in a progressive series, showing different stages in the absorption of consonant-stem forms. Examples in the use of the subjunctive mood have been supplied with unusual copiousness, in the belief that the contemplation of examples is the surest way to acquire a feeling for the subtle differences between the subjunctive and the indicative. The reviser has evidently tried to keep in mind the needs of the beginner, and, when it has been necessary to introduce the results of modern philological research, they are stated as simply and definitively as possible. At the same time the more advanced pupil is furnished with all that is essential to his work, both at school and in college, until the time when an exhaustive grammar becomes a necessity to him. The more difficult topics are treated in such a way as to be clear, while leaving as little as possible to be unlearned when the pupil's study becomes more mature and scientific. Thus, among many things, the growing custom of German scholars in abandoning the character *j* is followed, while the distinction between *u* and *v* is retained.

The exclusion from the present edition of a mass of details, such as rare exceptions to rules and small irregularities in the linguistic usage of the less-known Latin writers, has failed to reduce the size of the book, because of the improvement in the size of the type which the publishers have been good enough to make. The large type, clear print, good paper, and neat binding make as good a setting as the learned reviser could desire for the result of his labors.

*Modern Heliographic Processes.* By ERNST LIETZE. New York, Van Nostrand. 8°.

THE present book had its origin in a lecture delivered by the author in 1885. On being requested to publish this lecture in the form of a pamphlet, the author extended his studies and researches, compiling the numerous recipes and suggestions scattered in journals and books, and ascertaining their value. The book is intended for the use of engineers and draughtsmen, who are so frequently in need of a good process for reproducing their drawings. After a brief theoretical introduction on the chemical and physical action of light, the author classifies the processes as processes with salts

of silver, with iron salts, with salts of chromium, and with salts of uranium. He gives practical instructions in regard to the paper to be used, the methods of sensitizing, and the trays and dishes used for the purpose, and describes various forms of printing-frames. He then proceeds to describe the numerous processes that have been suggested, and states their advantages and disadvantages. Formulæ which were found not practical, but which are recommended by reliable authorities, have also been given. The patented processes are included, although they cannot be used generally, in order to give a complete review of the subject treated. The first thousand copies of the book are accompanied by ten specimens of heliographic prints, among which the uranium and carbon prints deserve special mention. The first chapters, in which the methods of sensitizing and printing are described, are accompanied by numerous figures illustrating the instruments and processes.

*When Age Grows Young.* By HYLAND C. KIRK. New York, Dillingham. 16°. 50 cents.

THE author of this work published a few years ago a speculation on the possibility of not dying, in which he undertook to maintain that it was possible to prolong human physical life indefinitely; and now, in accordance with the fashion of the time, he comes before us with a romance in which he maintains the same view. The story has no very consistent plot, but contains a considerable variety of incident of a more or less interesting character. The principal personage in the story, however, who is known as Daniel Ritter, and who is the advocate of the theory of physical immortality, is by no means an agreeable character. He has some pleasing traits, and is gifted with the power of telepathy, on which some of the main incidents of the story are made to turn. But he wishes to obtain twenty thousand dollars in order to marry the girl he loves, and gets it by defrauding an insurance company. As for the possibility of not dying, which "Ritter" maintains, it depends, we are told, on certain conditions. The first is "to believe it possible;" the second, "to be in accord with the Will of the Universe;" the third, "to make the cause of humanity your own;" and "the final step is the triumph of love in life," whatever that may mean. Now, without entering into the biological objections to such a theory, we would remark that the first of these conditions seems to be the most difficult of attainment. We are told by the prophet of an older gospel that if we have sufficient faith we can remove mountains, but the difficulty with most people is to get the faith, and we apprehend that Mr. Kirk's doctrine will encounter the same obstacle. However, if any one wishes to learn about the theory, he will take an interest in reading this book; for it has at least the literary merit of being written in a good style.

*The Battle of the Swash and the Capture of Canada.* By SAMUEL BARTON. New York, C. T. Dillingham. 16°. 50 cents.

THIS little book is of the "Battle of Dorking" class. It purports to be an account of an attack upon New York by a British fleet in the year 1890, together with other exciting events, including the capture of Canada, which occurred in the same year. The reason for the book's existence, and the keynote of the author's rather lively tune, may be found in the dedication of the volume, which runs as follows:—

"To the senators and ex-senators, members and ex-members, of past and present Congresses of the United States of America, who, by their stupid and criminal neglect to adopt ordinary defensive precautions, or to encourage the reconstruction of the American merchant marine, have rendered all American seaport towns liable to such an attack as is herein but faintly and imperfectly described, this historical forecast is dedicated; with much indignation and contempt, and little or no respect."

The author "makes his title clear" by explaining to those of his readers not familiar with New York waters that the Swash is a straight channel, forming a sort of hypothenuse to the two sides of the main ship-channel, which bends almost at right angles at the south-west spit in the outer bay. The admiral of the British fleet selected this channel as his base of operations against New York. "Blinding buoys," torpedoes and torpedo-boats, dynamite guns and gunboats, submarine boats, and various other devices, played a

more or less important part in defending the city against the enemy. But the most effective work was done by two insignificant-looking boats,—evidently invented by the author,—which involved a new principle of marine warfare as applicable to harbor defence. These boats carried no arms or ammunition excepting a hollow steel ram containing two tons of dynamite. Almost completely submerged, and travelling at a speed of thirty miles an hour, they made for two of the most formidable of the British ironclads. When so close to their victims that there was no risk of missing the mark, the pilots of the boats, the only men remaining aboard, quietly dropped overboard, to be afterward picked up. The rams penetrate the sides of the ironclads, two explosions follow, and there is nothing left of either but fragments. Notwithstanding all this, the British fleet enters the upper bay, and, at the end of two days' bombardment, the Brooklyn navy-yard, the East River bridge, and the lower part of New York City are utterly destroyed.

But the book must be read to be appreciated. It is well written and interesting, and puts into striking form the essence of the many arguments advanced from time to time for "restoring our merchant marine, strengthening our coast defences and the navy, and supplementing the latter by a naval reserve."

*More about the Black Bass.* By JAMES A. HENSHALL, M.D. Cincinnati, Robert Clarke & Co. 12°. \$1.50.

THIS volume is a supplement to the "Book of the Black Bass," by the same author, who is an expert angler and an eminently practical writer on black bass and bass-fishing. He has thought it best to issue this supplement in a separate volume, letting the original edition remain intact, the chapters in both volumes being so arranged as to agree in number and caption. The plan pursued in the original book, of illustrating the tools and tackle by engravings especially prepared for manufacturers, to illustrate their different lines of specialties, has been adhered to in the supplement.

The book is divided into three parts. The first part treats of the scientific history, nomenclature and morphology, general and special features, coloration, geographical distribution, habits, and intelligence and special senses of the black bass, and on stocking inland waters with them. Fishing rods, reels, lines, hooks, artificial flies, artificial and natural baits, and miscellaneous implements, receive attention in the second part. The third part is devoted to the philosophy of angling, conditions governing the biting of fish, the black bass as a game-fish, fly-fishing, casting the minnow, still-fishing, trolling, and skittering and bobbing. The volume will be welcomed by every genuine angler who "loves angling for its own sake," while even the pot-fisher, who "likes fishing for the spoils it brings," may find in it valuable hints that will increase his income.

#### AMONG THE PUBLISHERS.

AT last we are treated to a novelty in the way of almanac-making. Dr. J. C. Ayer & Co., the well-known manufacturers of Ayer's sarsaparilla, Lowell, Mass., send us their "Almanac for 1889," in the shape of a good-sized book, embracing editions in English, calculated for the various sections of the United States, the Dominion of Canada, India, South Africa, and Australia; also editions in nine other languages. The volume contains, also, specimen pages of pamphlets issued by the company in eleven languages not represented by the almanacs, including Greek, Turkish, Armenian, Chinese, Burmese, and Hawaiian,—twenty-one languages in all. From the preface we learn that no fewer than fourteen millions of these almanacs are printed yearly. A copy of this favorite almanac may be had at your druggist's. It is a species of "yellow covered literature" of value.

—Never without some papers which are sterling contributions to political and social science, "The Atlantic" for January has in this department "A Difficult Problem in Politics," by Frank Gaylord Cook, the problem being how to attain "uniform legislation" throughout the Union; and one of Lillie Chace Wyman's "Studies of Factory Life," this time of the relation of "The American and the Mill." Professor Shaler of Harvard University considers "The Athletic Problem in Education;" and there are papers by Philip Dymond, on "Von Moltke's Characteristics," and by John Fiske, on "Washington's Great Campaign of 1776."